

The Children's Newspaper, Week Ending March 12, 1949

Children's Newspaper

Every Tuesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

No 1564—March 12, 1949

A BOY IN THE CRADLE OF FLIGHT

When Uncle's Name Appeared in the Paper

Recently the first power-driven aeroplane to fly with a man, the Wright machine, was placed on show at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, on arrival from the Science Museum in London. At the Washington ceremony Milton Wright, nephew of the famous brothers Wilbur and Orville, gave this entertaining account of those days early this century when the brothers were evolving their wonderful "flying machine" at Dayton in Ohio.

IN the years before 1903 (said Milton Wright) I spent whatever time I was allowed playing about my uncle's bicycle shop. The odour of the glue pot, the spruce shavings on the floor, and the many gadgets whose use I did not understand, were all a great attraction to a small boy. The matter of fact way in which my uncles used the gadgets and planed the spruce strips and glued them together into ribs for their "flying machine" left me with the impression that all bicycle shops did the same thing. It was all very commonplace.

When they took their glider to Kitty Hawk, I thought it must be a fine place to take a vacation, particularly after they sent me such interesting souvenirs as a dried horseshoe crab and bottles containing genuine sea water and sea sand. But I had heard of others taking vacations in equally interesting spots.

They spent many hours making up jointed sheet metal figures for shadowgraph shows with which they entertained all of the children. They made helicopters out of bamboo, paper, corks, and rubber bands and allowed us to run after them when they flew them. There was nothing unusual

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Trapper Trapped

THIS story about a professional trapper of wild animals has just reached Glasgow Zoo. The trapper had prepared his trap ready for a tiger, and was about to set it when he suddenly found himself, with no firearms, confronted by a tiger.

There was only one thing to be done—jump into his own trap and shut himself in, and this he did just in time, before the animal sprang. All the following night the tiger prowled around the big bamboo cage, chewing occasionally at the struts in an effort to reach the man inside. Luckily, the trapper had made a strong trap and eventually was rescued.

MOVING STORY

OUT on his early morning rounds, a Highland shepherd saw a rabbit skin lying on a hill track. Deciding to collect it later he marked the spot, but on returning was startled to see the skin leaping into the air. He watched it wriggling and dancing and then scamper off down the path. He rubbed his eyes but followed, and again saw it leap up. Then a weasel dashed out from underneath the skin!

Fish Are Noisy Creatures

DEEP SEA CHORUS

THE depths of the oceans are not so quiet as many of us think.

The noises made by fishes underwater, from grunts and groans to cooing and cackling, were described by Dr Martin W. Johnson, of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, California, at the Pacific Science Congress held last month in New Zealand, and he said that only recently had it been understood how much noise was at all times present underwater. Submarine sounds are made by fish, cetaceans and mammals, and all sounds except one were audible. They varied from the squawks of solitary fish to the great choruses of fish swimming in schools.

Sound Guide

The most important of the sound-producers is the snapping shrimp found in the waters of the North Island of New Zealand. The sounds heard through the hulls of anchored yachts, especially at sunset and sunrise, are probably those made by the shrimp.

The curious snapping sound made by the shrimp is continuous and goes on year after year. It could be used as a guide to their haunts. The noises over a shrimp bed and those in areas where they did not congregate could be compared with the noises made in a busy factory and those in a quiet home.

Dr Johnson played recordings of sounds made by fish off the east and west coasts of the United States. Against the continual roar of the sea the fish noises could easily be heard. Most of the sounds were deep and guttural, the only really musical sound being the cooing of toadfish.

The snapping shrimps could be heard crackling and the searobins groaning. The chirping call of a bird was made by one fish and another sounded like the whirring of a propeller. Some of the most entertaining sounds were those made by the porpoises, varying from the imitation of a barking dog to the shrill tuning whistles of a radio set. These they used with great force, apparently to keep in touch with one another.

Oysters Are Silent

Much amusement was caused by the long series of hiccupping sounds which were probably the humpback whales' method of communicating with one another. The many other sounds not yet identified with any particular fish included one like the meowing of a kitten, a groaning as of someone in dire distress, a hiss of escaping steam and others similar to fog-horns and motor-horns.

Contrary to popular belief, Dr Johnson said, oysters make no noise at all.

MARCH SUNSHINE



A walk in the woods to greet the Spring

JOCK OF THE BUSHVELD

The Famous Dog of the Goldfields

LOST somewhere in the dense bush of the Transvaal Lowveld is the grave of South Africa's most famous dog, Jock of the Bushveld; and an attempt to find it is being made.

Jock belonged to Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, who died in 1931, a transport rider in the days when the goldfields were booming in the Transvaal. Jock accompanied his master on his travels between Delagoa Bay and the goldfields, and the adventures of the pair were put down for all time in Sir Percy's book, *Jock of the Bushveld*, first published in 1907.

When Jock became too old to go with his master he was left in the care of a certain Tom Barnard, who ran a concession store in the Lowveld. The store stood near a wild fig tree, and

it was under this tree that Jock was eventually buried.

Now the daughter of Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, Mrs J. Mackie-Niven, who lives at Uitenhage, in Cape Colony, has set herself the task of finding Jock's grave. Unfortunately, the job is proving very difficult. Tom Barnard's store was a temporary affair of wood and iron which has long since disappeared; and there are thousands of wild fig trees along the road where Jock travelled and hunted.

But Mrs Mackie-Niven is not giving up hope. She is at the moment busy with a map to show the journeys of her famous father through the Transvaal Lowveld. And the hearts of thousands of South Africans are with her in the search.

Seven Brothers

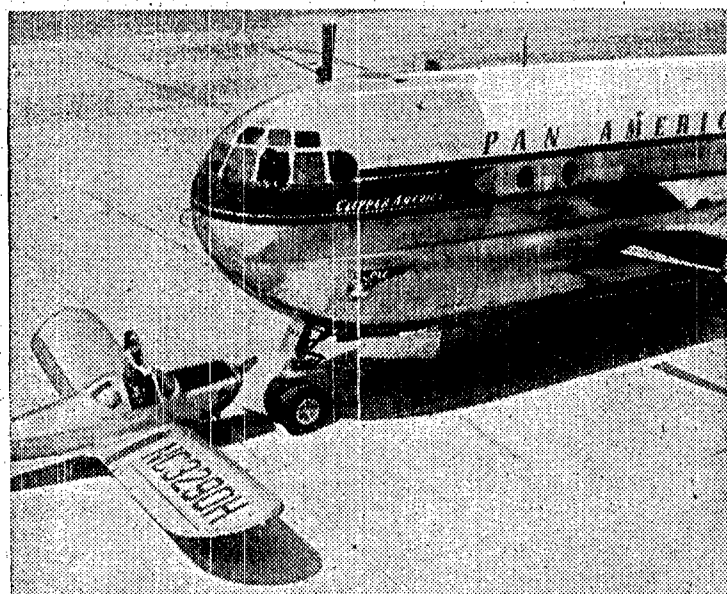
BECAUSE of the death of a sister, seven sons of a pioneer couple met together recently in New Zealand for the first time in 52 years, although all had spent most of their lives within the Dominion.

Their father, William Parton, who emigrated from England in 1866, was said to be the first coppersmith to go to New Zealand. The combined ages of the seven brothers total 465 years.

GLASS HELMET

AN entirely new fireman's helmet is being tested. It is made of woven glass fabric impregnated in a resin and is much lighter and cooler than the present helmet. In addition to giving protection from falling wreckage and objects with a cutting edge, it resists an electric current of 10,000 volts whether wet or dry. Its design is the result of considerable scientific research.

PYGMY AND GIANT



A private flyer chats with the captain of the huge Clipper America, which is expected to be in operation shortly, carrying 75 passengers non-stop between New York and London.

The United Nations and Britain's Progress

WE are becoming more and more aware that the prosperity of one country is affected by the progress, or otherwise, of another. It is, therefore, vital that each country should be kept fully informed of what the others are doing. This need is now being met each year by the United Nations in the Economic Report, the second of which has been recently issued.

These annual reports will become increasingly valuable because so many of us are nowadays interested in what we used to regard as the "dry" subject of economics, and the reports give us a bird's-eye view, as it were, on the affairs of the whole world.

The recent report should please everybody, for it is generally optimistic about the economic recovery of most of the world. At last the world's factories, farms, and mines have started producing more than before the war. The report estimates the rise at nearly one-fifth more than in 1937.

More People

We must not forget, however, that since 1937 the population of the world has greatly increased and therefore the food which farms produce or the factory goods turned out must be divided between many more people. Still, world economy has turned the corner.

But we are not out of the wood yet. Although there has been a general rise of production, world trade which helps in distributing production to all corners of our globe is not going as well.

What does Britain's position look like against a generally favourable background of world economy?

Both in this country and in the world, the Report states, we have been able to master most of our economic difficulties. But what is even more interesting is the fact that while her great task of economic reconstruction is going on, Britain is changing her industry to one which will soon be more modern and, at the same time, more powerful. Few people realise that in the future we shall not so much depend on exports of two great staples, coal and cotton, but on a much greater variety of more highly finished goods. And highly finished goods, such as chemicals and synthetic (artificial) fibres will mean more employment and more interesting jobs.

But that is only one side of our situation. The products of British factories must be sold on world

markets. As we have to buy food and raw material abroad the overseas markets have necessarily to accept vast quantities of our goods, otherwise our buying would eventually stop. But though we produce more and better goods Britain's international trade problem is far from easy. This is the reason.

The war has reduced, almost to nothing, our foreign investments and with them the income they were bringing in. But, of course, the need of foreign-grown food and raw materials for Britain's people and factories, paid for by this income, has remained the same, or even become bigger. Consequently, we started to reduce our reserve of foreign exchange, especially of the dollars with which essential imports from America had to be paid.

One of the aims of the American loan to Britain and of Marshall Aid was to improve the dollar supplies of Britain. But Marshall Aid goes even further. It aims at improving the economy of Britain (and of other European countries) permanently. As we now have no large sources of invisible exports, it means that the rise of visible export trade must at the same time be large enough and durable enough to ensure recovery.

There is good reason to believe that Britain is actually succeeding in achieving this aim, and the Economic Report of the United Nations confirms that impression.

A SECOND FORTH BRIDGE?

If present plans prove practical the giant railway bridge across the Firth of Forth will have a twin road bridge a short distance up-river. Last month engineers began the tests on which any bridge will be based, boring with drills deep into the earth on either side of the mile-wide river to find out the nature of the earth structure. If the subsoil proves suitable the Government will be one stage further ahead in its plans for a new highway to the north of Scotland.

BOY IN THE CRADLE OF FLIGHT

Continued from page 1

about that. All uncles probably did the same things.

History was being made in their bicycle shop and in their home, but the making was so obscured by the commonplace that I did not recognise it until many years later. The world has come to think of Orville and Wilbur Wright either as demigods whose minds suddenly produced the answer to the problem of flight or as ignorant mechanics who stumbled on the secrets of flight. They were neither. They were very normal young men who had an idea and saw a problem and set about to solve that problem. Their ability to select the vital parts of their problem and to discard the unessential was an important factor in their success.

I remember their wind tunnel only as a machine that made a lot of noise and was stored in our barn for many years after they finished with it! But the wind tunnel, although inexpensive and crude, was designed with such knowledge that the resulting tables of aero-dynamics differ very little from those used today.

When, on December 17, 1903, the first flight was made at Kitty Hawk, I was shown a copy of the Cincinnati Enquirer which reported that event. I was not impressed by the fact that they had flown because, from conversations I had overheard, I knew that they had figured out how to do it, and things they figured out usually worked. But I was thrilled by their getting their names in the paper!

A Quarry at King Arthur's Castle

A PROPOSAL to dig a ten-acre quarry into the cliffs at Tintagel in order to obtain quartz has been opposed by the area planning officer, because it would spoil a fine stretch of Cornish coast.

On these cliffs stand the ruins of King Arthur's Castle, and of this romantic place Arthur Mee wrote in his King's England: Its rocks rise sheer from the sea, crowned with green carpets, with fragments of ancient walls creeping over them, with lichen-covered caps and moss-grown ways and tiny caves, and what is left of an old monk's cell, here a doorway, here a window, here a graveyard... It is a sight that has not changed for a thousand years and will not change for a thousand more. In the evening when the sun is setting, sinking into the Atlantic from something like a flaming battlefield, we can think it is true about King Arthur and his Knights. A deep sense of something mysterious comes upon us; then we can believe whatever Sir Thomas Malory tells us of Arthur and Guinevere and Lancelot.

We shall hope this magic corner of Cornwall may be preserved.

RUSKIN COLLEGE JUBILEE

RUSKIN COLLEGE, Oxford, which was founded to provide working men and women with a training in citizenship, has just completed its fiftieth year.

The College began as Ruskin Hall, and was established by two American admirers of John Ruskin, Mr Walter Vrooman and Mr C. A. Beard. Mr Vrooman paid all expenses for the first two years.

At the first enrolment 25 "workmen" went into residence, and 200 registered for the correspondence course. The present building was erected in Walton Street in 1913.

Mr Vrooman also founded in 1900 a Ruskin College at Trenton in his native State of Missouri; this was removed later to the town of Ruskin in Florida.

Living in History

GIRLS from Hunter's Hill Primary School, Dagenham, Essex, are learning history in a new way. One afternoon a week they visit the Geffrye Museum in Shoreditch and there, in a room furnished in the style of the period they are studying, and "inhabited" by life-size cut-out figures dressed in period costumes, they do their lessons.

Seven rooms in the museum represent the different periods in British history from the Elizabethan Age to modern times. As a class finishes a certain period it moves into another room furnished in the appropriate style.

Other schools in London are also attending the special courses.

HAVE YOU Has Your Friend?

You will both be well advised to place an order with a news-agent for the CN to be reserved for you weekly. It will save disappointment.

NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

Thank You, Commonwealth

Food gifts received by Britain from the Commonwealth in 1946, 1947, and 1948 amounted to 54,000 tons. These were distributed to over 1900 hospitals, 2500 charitable institutions, and 1800 schools. Also, more than 50 million gift food parcels have been sent direct to individuals here since 1939.

Plans are being discussed to double the size of Corby, in Northants, during the next ten years at a cost of £25,000,000. Present population is 13,000, but it was only a quiet little village 14 years ago, when a great steel-works was established there.

A Welsh Methodist Sunday School worker, who will not allow his name to be known, has given £15,000 to the Methodist Youth Department to provide suitable films in its Sunday Schools.



One of the latest London Zoo babies is a South African Black-footed Penguin chick. It has been named Penny.

When a vessel capsized off the New South Wales coast, a beach inspector struggled half a mile out to sea on a surf ski to rescue a seaman. Although frequently knocked off the ski by waves, he succeeded in saving him.

CLOSE SHAVE

Two men shipwrecked on an island off Mackay, Queensland, Australia, flashed messages with the aid of shaving mirrors and attracted the attention of a ship, which came alongside and rescued them.

A new Underground railway at Toronto, to cost £10,000,000, may be built by British firms.

The production of apples has increased in Britain. The average in the years 1934-38 was 280,000 tons; in the years 1944-47 it was 480,000 tons.

A golden coin, identified as of pre-Roman occupation period, has been dug up in a garden at Chalfont St Giles.

WRONG COLOUR

Upper reaches of the River Cam have been turning dark blue, owing, it is suspected, to pollution.

The closing date for entries in Britain for the Unesco Essay, Poster, and Scrap-Book competitions has been deferred to May 31.

When the driver of a school bus fainted at Salisbury, Connecticut, nine-year-old Dick Kennedy saved the children by driving the bus into a snowdrift.

The Revd John Croft, Rector of Lamesley, Durham, who recently celebrated his 98th birthday, is believed to be the oldest officiating clergyman in England.

Funnel-Shaped

The new Royal Mail liner, Magdalena, which recently made her maiden voyage to South America, has a funnel, which is wide at the bottom and tapers to a narrow top. Smoke and gases are washed inside it to keep them from the passenger decks.

The sum of £10,000 a year has been offered to Oxford University by the Pressed Steel Company of Cowley. The offer is for seven years and is to encourage research in the physical sciences.

Tests have been carried out in an aircraft-carrier fitted with a flexible deck made of rubber material from which a jet fighter can be catapulted and on which it lands on its skid. Thus the aircraft does not need an under-carriage.

Dynamite was used to blast rocks which trapped a terrier for 74 hours at Danby Head, Yorks. The dog had run into a fox-burrow and fallen down a 20-foot crevice. Two days' digging failed to release the dog, but when the rock was blasted it crawled out unhurt.

Congratulations

Britain's oldest provincial evening newspaper, the Shields Gazette, has commemorated its centenary. Throughout its hundred years the family of the founder, James Stevenson, have been actively associated with its production.

Of Darlington's 11,254 school-boys and girls, 10,152 are members of National Savings Groups. This puts Darlington Schools Savings Committee top in the Northern Savings Region with a group membership of 90 per cent. Over the whole country the membership of school savers is 31 per cent.

All of New Zealand's canning factories will be busy for some months filling an order for £900,000 worth of tomatoes, green peas, and vegetable soups in tins to be shipped to Britain.

The Emergency Teacher Training Scheme is to end shortly, the Minister of Education has announced. The campaign launched last summer to attract 6000 suitable women candidates for teaching brought in about 12,000 applications, from which nearly 4000 candidates were chosen.

SHOCK

What appeared to be the worst earthquake in history was recorded by an instrument at New York City College. It was due to a spider trapped inside the delicate mechanism.

For his constant and courageous fight against ill-health, Scout John Heaton Witty, aged 16, of the 3rd West Bridgford (Friary) Group, Nottinghamshire, has been awarded the Cornwell Badge, the Scout V.C.

One hundred King's Scouts from many parts of the country recently attended an investiture in the historic Great Hall of Hampton Court Palace and received the Royal Certificates from the Deputy Chief Scout, Sir Percy Everett.

A cricket bat bearing the signatures of the Australians who played England in 1948, the South Africans who played in the first two tests of 1948, and the MCC players, has been handed over to the Mayor of Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia. He intends asking the Rhodesian team also to sign.

Muti's Grandson Returns

THERE was a great feasting at Umkomaas, in Natal, the other day when the aged Zulu chief Muti Shabane gave a royal party to celebrate the return of his grandson Malcolm, whom Muti had long thought dead and buried.

When Malcolm was still a boy and the apple of his grandfather's eye, Malcolm fell grievously ill with tuberculosis, and the district surgeon ordered his removal from the royal kraal to the hospital at Springfield.

Old Muti wept long and bitterly, because the Zulus believe that once a person is taken to

hospital he never comes out alive. But under careful treatment Malcolm grew healthy and eventually his mother received permission to take the boy away for a week-end to visit his grandfather.

When Muti saw Malcolm, whom he believed was dead, he rose on his old unsteady legs and wept for joy. Then he bade his people kill the fatted calf, and that night Muti's people crowded round the kraal fires and made merry. Having seen the boy's healthy body the Muti's people no longer believe that people go to hospital only to die.

Choosing a Career

A NOVEL method of helping boys about to leave school to choose a career has been tried out at Gordon Modern School, Gravesend.

Each lad was asked to compose a letter asking for an interview with the various firms or services in which they were interested. The scheme met with an enthusiastic response, and the boys have visited a fire station, a bus garage, a gas works, a Thames tug office, the police station, and the Post Office.

The boys were encouraged to ask questions, and as many aspects of the job as possible were shown. The fire brigade turned out the engines and staged a mock rescue from a "burning building." The police station was thrown open to them, and they were taken through the town in a police van on an inspection of the call boxes.

Each boy gave a lecture to the rest of his class when he had completed his visit, and wrote a report.

LET THE BELLS RING

IT is pleasing to know that in Norfolk and Suffolk, which have so many old churches with beautiful peals of bells, the ringing seems to be more popular than for a long time past.

Reports presented at the recent annual meeting of the South Norfolk branch of the Norwich Diocesan Association of Ringers revealed an encouraging revival of interest and support for the art in both counties.

When the Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich dedicated a restored peal of bells at Wingfield, a lovely old North Suffolk church, recently, he expressed great pleasure at the enthusiasm for ringing which exists in his diocese.

BOWLED—BUT NOT OUT

WHAT is believed to be a record in the history of big cricket happened at Sydney recently in a match between New South Wales and Victoria. Three times the bowler hit the batsman's wicket without the bails being removed; and, of course, the batsmen were not out.

The stumps used in the match had flat tops with metal fittings. This, to some extent at least, accounted for the bowlers' bad luck. Stumps with a dome-shaped top were not available.

Correct Time

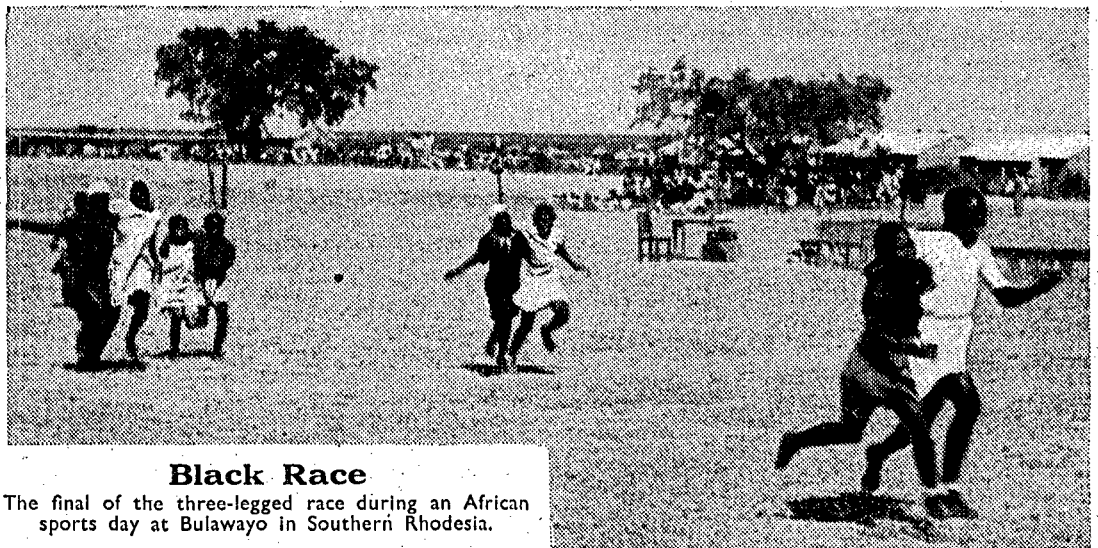
OWING to its accuracy, the atom clock at Washington, U.S.A., will probably be substituted for the timekeeping apparatus at Greenwich, said Sir Harold Spencer Jones, the Astronomer Royal, lecturing at Los Angeles.

Sir Harold spoke rather coldly of the famous quartz crystal clocks at Greenwich which, he complained, "are accurate only to about one thousandth of a second a day." Only!

Turning warmly to the clock developed by the Bureau of Standards in Washington, he continued: "The American atomic clock, governed by vibrations of ammonia molecules, seems to be an almost absolute measure of time."

Underground Atomic Laboratories

SIXTY feet beneath Glasgow University scientists will soon be working on atomic problems in underground chambers, whose walls will be, in some parts, 16 feet thick. Very powerful and modern machinery for atomic energy work will be brought from Manchester and housed in this new laboratory, which will meet the needs of medical, industrial, and educational pioneers.



Black Race

The final of the three-legged race during an African sports day at Bulawayo in Southern Rhodesia.

GOOD NEWS

MORE children were baptised in the Church of England in 1947 than in 1940, and more money was contributed to the Church. These and other significant facts about the Good Fight in England are in The Official Year-Book of the Church of England, 1949 (S P C K, 12s 6d).

Altogether 533,266 were baptised in 1947 as against 370,915 in 1940. The increase is partly due to the higher birthrate, but its chief significance, the Bishop of London has pointed out, seems to be that English people continue to desire that their children should be baptised and brought up as Christians.

Contributions in 1947 amounted to £5,944,534, compared with £4,725,174 in 1940.

On the other hand, the number of those confirmed fell from 134,159 in 1940 to 114,513 in 1947. This may be due partly to the fall in the birthrate in the years before the war. The 1948 figures are expected to show an increase.

THE DUCK MAN

THERE stepped off the first Canadian Pacific train to steam into Winnipeg, 66 years ago, a middle-aged Yorkshireman, Kenyon Copperthwaite. He was then 44 and could remember the time, in his early boyhood, when trains were still something of a novelty.

He was to see many more wonders in his long life. But his main interest was ducks. He studied their haunts in Canada and was able to make a living as a guide to duck hunters. He was still acting as a guide when he was 108, and, recently, he died at St Boniface, Manitoba, aged 110.

MR POL'S 202 DESCENDANTS

WHEN Mr Jacob Pol, a retired Dutch labourer, celebrated his 90th birthday at Geleen, in the Limburg province of Holland, the other day, it was revealed that he has 202 living descendants.

There are 10 children—the eldest being 67—86 grandchildren, and 106 great-grandchildren. All live in Holland.

Varsity Sports on New Track

THE 1949 inter-Varsity athletics meeting, to be held next Saturday at the White City, will be one of the most important in the long history of this annual sporting event. In June a combined Oxford and Cambridge team of athletes is to visit America, to meet the crack sprinters and jumpers of the Western universities, Princeton, Cornell, Harvard, and Yale. Competition among our own Varsity athletes on Saturday, therefore, will be very keen indeed, for champions in the various events will be almost certain of a place in the touring team.

The inter-Varsity sports meeting will be important, too, from another angle. The famous White City track has been relaid, with a top dressing similar to that used at Wembley for last year's Olympics, and this should produce many records. The experiment will be watched by leading athletes and officials with considerable interest.

TO HELP YOUR PALS

IT is when an accident occurs on the way to or from school, or out at play that the Junior First Aider is needed, the person who knows what to do, having taken a first-aid course.

Any boy or girl can make a start in becoming a Junior First Aider by obtaining the British Red Cross Society's new Junior First Aid Manual (2s 6d, Educational Productions). It is well illustrated, very simply written, and contains all one needs to know for parts 1 and 2 of the Society's Junior First Aid Course and Examination.

What to do in case of "ricked" ankles, bad cuts, burns and scalds, fainting, how to apply artificial respiration, the "three-handed seat" for carrying an injured chum, how to tie bandages, and much more, is to be easily learned from this excellent little book.

Cricket on Rubber

ESSEX COUNTY CRICKET CLUB are looking forward to the opening of the coaching classes at Chelmsford at Easter, when their new experimental rubber practice pitches will be used for the first time.

Two concrete pitches have been laid, and these will be covered with a rubberised surface, which, it is hoped, will enable bowlers to make the fullest use of spin.

In the past the most popular practice pitch has been of concrete covered with matting; it is on such pitches that all the great Australian cricketers have learned the arts of the game, and Don Bradman has advised all clubs to adopt this type of pitch for practice. In South Africa many matches are played on matting, and our players speak with great appreciation of the accuracy of such surfaces.

Essex feel that they have gone one better than matting, but the rubber surface has yet to be fully tested.

Lyte on Plants

ONE of the most beautiful manor houses in Somerset, Lytes Cary, near Ilchester, has been bequeathed to the National Trust by the late Sir Walter Jenner, together with its valuable contents and more than 300 acres.

Here the Lyte family lived from the 13th to the 18th century, among them Sir Henry Lyte who in 1578 published an early book on plants called "a newe Harball or Historie on Plantes... translated out of French into English by Henry Lyte, Esquier." He himself laid out a famous garden at Lytes Cary.

Schoolboys and girls may (perhaps) venerate the memory of his third son, another Henry, who in 1619 published one of the first books on decimal fractions, called "The Art of Tens and Decimall Arithmetike."

STAMP NEWS

NEW Zealanders paid £108,000 in buying 11 million of the 1948 health stamps. One-third of this sum will go to support health camps for children.

BRAZIL has issued a stamp to help in her drive against illiteracy. It shows a man reading and the letters a, b, and c.

JAPAN has issued a five-yen stamp to mark the fourth National Athletic Meeting. It depicts a woman ice-skater.

GENERAL Antonio Macheo, soldier of Cuba, who was born 100 years ago, is commemorated by a set of eight new stamps.



White Race

Six of the leading Cambridge University undergraduates get away to a good start during a sprinting practice.

ERIC GILLETT WRITES ABOUT . . .

Some Films You Should See

JOHN MILLS is one of the most able and versatile film actors of the present day. After his successful appearance in the title-role of Scott of the Antarctic he has just produced a screen version of H. G. Wells's famous novel *The History of Mr Polly*, in which he plays the leading part.

The book has been adapted as a film and is directed by Anthony Pelissier. Rather surprisingly it has been given an "A" certificate. It will appeal to a great many cinemagoers of 13 and over as it tells a good story, is very well produced, acted, and directed, and has plenty of incident.

H. G. Wells began life as a draper's assistant, and he did not enjoy the experience. Alfred Polly (John Mills) is sacked from a draper's shop because he has a habit of reading romances long after the dinner-hour is over. When his father dies and leaves him £500 he buys a bicycle and takes to the country, where he has some remarkable adventures and eventually marries his cousin Miriam and has to set up his own little shop to make a living. For 15 years his wife scolds him, and then, suddenly, the Great Idea comes to him; and from that point the film, which begins rather slowly, gains speed and maintains it to the close.

There are some riotously funny sequences when Polly, having taken a post as odd-job man and ferryman at a wayside inn, is called on to repel the odious Uncle Jim (Finlay Currie). Mr Polly has to make a great decision. Is he to run away or to remain and fight? The kindly innkeeper (Megs Jenkins) has befriended him and he ought to defend her, but Jim is large and very fierce.

It is the kind of problem which most people have to face at least once in the course of their lives, and after some hesitation Mr Polly solves it satisfactorily—and for the audience most amusingly. Beautifully acted, *The History of Mr Polly* is a good picture in its own right. It also transfers Wells's novel faithfully to the screen. Among the films of books this one ranks high.

This is not so in *Green Grass of Wyoming*, a Twentieth Century Fox production in

Technicolor, based on Mary O'Hara's story; but the camera work in it is excellent. The story does not matter. It is impossible to believe in it for an instant. The photography is a delight all through. Thunderhead, the great white stallion, pictured against the Wyoming landscape, is superb. In fact, the horses steal the film, but a word may be said for the acting of Robert Arthur and Peggy Cummins as the young hero and heroine.

EUREKA Stockade, the second picture made by Ealing Studios in Australia, is a period piece with a gold-rush setting.

Here again the plot is melodramatic and ineffective, and some of the photographs of New South Wales are very pleasant, but this is a most disappointing successor to that great film, *The Overlanders*, and Chips Rafferty seems uncomfortable in the part of the miner's leader, Peter Lalor.

CHILDREN'S Entertainment Films have just made three more shorts in the series, *With Uncle Bill at the Zoo*, produced and directed by F. Ratcliffe-Holmes, F.Z.S. These excellent documentaries take the audience behind the scenes at the Zoo. The two children, Garry and Tanya, who are lucky enough to be



A scene from *Eureka Stockade*



Little Polly (played by Juliet Mills, daughter of John Mills) and the kindly innkeeper, in a scene from *The History of Mr Polly*

Uncle Bill's guests—he is on the staff of the Zoological Society—have a fine time making friends with a large number of birds and animals ranging from penguins to lion cubs. The commentary might with advantage be a little less formal.

GIBRALTAR APE

A FEW days ago the body of an ape was unloaded at Liverpool and despatched to Edinburgh. It was from Gibraltar and was one of the famous Barbary Apes.

Worried by the decline in the ape population of the Rock, officials have requested surgeons to find out the cause of death. The reason for their concern is that a widely held superstition claims that, when the apes die out, British rule over Gibraltar will end. During the war their number dropped to five and Mr Churchill, then Prime Minister, issued an order that reinforcements were to be brought in from North Africa.

An Army officer was made responsible for their protection.

These Are the Leewards

THE picturesquely-named Leeward Islands, lying between four and five hundred miles off the coast of Venezuela, have been in the news lately because of the return to London of their governor, Earl Baldwin.

The economic depression which, of recent years, has hit the West Indies has been felt in the Leewards, and many of the natives, who form over 98 per cent of the population, are living in poverty and under the most primitive conditions.

The colony consists of four island groups, Antigua, St Kitts, and Nevis, Montserrat, and part of the Virgin Islands. Antigua, less than half the size of Anglesey, is the largest island, and St Johns, its chief town, is the colony's capital; but it was on St Kitts or St Christopher, the second largest island, that the first settlement was made.

Although the Leewards were first sighted by Columbus in 1493, it was a group of Englishmen from Sussex, under Captain Thomas Warner, who arrived and settled there in 1623. The settlers had been tobacco planters at the mouth of the river Amazon until the Spanish Government complained to King James the First that they were trespassers. In an attempt to pacify the Spaniards, James issued an order that no English

ships were to sail to the Amazon, and thus the English planters were isolated and were forced to seek a home elsewhere. St Kitts was chosen because of its small native population and because it had been ignored by the Spanish in preference to the larger islands of Cuba and Jamaica. In the following year Warner returned to England for more men and provisions and came back, as Sir Thomas Warner, to establish Britain's first colony in the West Indies.

The Caribs, the native inhabitants, were subdued with difficulty, and during the next 15 years settlements were made on the neighbouring islands of Antigua, Nevis, and Montserrat. Trouble with the French continued until 1713 when the Treaty of Utrecht confirmed Britain's claim to the islands. Again the French occupied some of the islands, but they were restored to Britain in 1782.

Today the main industry is the manufacture of sugar. Tobacco and cotton are also grown and limes are exported from Montserrat and Nevis. Before the war a new export was becoming established—tomatoes for the Canadian market.

The total area of the principal islands is 316 square miles, and the population is 110,000 of whom only 2000 are white.

C N ZOO CORRESPONDENT TELLS US ABOUT . . .

An Intelligent Water-Buffalo and a Truant Lizard

CATTLE are not generally noted for intelligence, but one specimen now living in the London Zoo is giving his keepers a surprise. He is Bully, the five-year-old Cape Buffalo.

Bully lives at the cattle sheds, in a stable adjoining one occupied by Muggie, an eight-year-old animal of the same species. The stable opens out on to a common paddock. But as it would be dangerous to allow Bully and Muggie to meet—a fight would probably result—each animal spends 24 hours in the paddock, the other meanwhile being shut indoors.

It did not, however, meet with Bully's approval, and the other day, hearing Muggie out in the paddock, Bully thought he would see what a little low cunning would do. So, having observed that the last thing the keeper always did on shutting him in was to drop the bolt at the base of the stable door, Bully began paying attention to that bolt, and, lowering his huge head, he began worrying it with the tip of one horn. And he not only turned the bolt but lifted it from its socket.

This, however, was not Bully's lucky day. A keeper, chancing just then to pass along the corridor, spotted Bully's little scheme and, hurrying into the den, fastened the bolt and secured it with rope—a precaution which the men now take each time Bully has to spend his day indoors.

"Bully will now have to bite the rope if he wants his plan to succeed," Headkeeper Perry told

me later. "But, clever though he has shown himself to be, that I think will be beyond him."

Meanwhile, at the reptile house, there is a much smaller exhibit than Bully, who is not only out of his cage but still manages to retain his freedom. He is a little wall lizard, one of a dozen that came from Madeira a year ago. This little fellow, who is noted for his nimbleness rather than brains, escaped one day last summer by leaping over the keeper's shoulder as the man was placing food in the cage. And though a hue and cry was promptly raised the lizard kept his freedom.

Little Lodger

"Fortunately, he has not gone out of the house," an official told me. "He is living in a large cage at the western end occupied by some banded monitors, four-foot-long reptiles, who, however, take scant notice of their diminutive 'lodger.' Keepers have seen him there several times, but, though they have tried to catch him, he is much too quick for them and darts behind rocks and boulders. Sometimes he moves so fast that the eye just cannot follow him."

The Zoo, however, is not worrying overmuch about this fugitive. He measures only seven inches and is quite harmless. And he has no feeding problem in his present quarters, for there are always plenty of insects to be had for the hunting.

"He has a long time to go yet before he sets up a new escape record," the official added. "That is held by a rare legless newt, a small wormlike creature which was missing some time ago and was eventually found by a gardener when turning a dead plant out of a flowerpot. It had been 'at liberty' for two whole years!"

C. H.

THE HUT MAN'S

article on *The Countryside* in March will appear next week

Reindeer Round-Up—Sorting Santa Claus's Steeds

Films and stories have made us familiar with the round-up of cattle on the great ranges of Australia and America. Here is an account of a round-up of a very different kind—the sorting of reindeer, the universal providers of the nomadic Lapps, on the snowy wastes of north-western Europe.

THE reindeer, the steed of Santa Claus, has always been the main source of life for the Lapps, a race allied to the Finns and inhabiting north-west Europe. Today the Lapps number some 30,000, of whom 19,000 live in Norway, 7000 in Sweden, and the remainder in Finland and Russia. They are the shortest people in Europe and have dark bristly hair, thick lips, and small piercing eyes.

Though the advance of civilisation has greatly affected their ancestral ways of life so that many Lapps have settled down as farmers and many live by fishing, over half of them are still nomads and all the year round follow their herds of reindeer through the hills of Norrland.

For them the reindeer, which they have domesticated and bred, is almost the universal provider. They feed on its milk and flesh, they clothe themselves in its skin, they use it as a beast of burden, and when winter comes they harness it to a boat-like sledge, or pulk, and it draws them far and wide at considerable speed.

Few animals are more sure of foot. Each foot comprises a pair of hoofs in front and a second pair at the sides and rear; and between the two pairs is a dense patch of coarse hair which prevents all slipping on ice.

No animal is so well equipped to withstand Arctic conditions as the reindeer. They can live on such hard fare as lichen or reindeer moss, to obtain which the animals dig into the snow with their antlers and big, broad hoofs. They will also eat seaweed.

Reindeer never feel the cold. They have a thick hide and a coat of hair nearly two inches long, beneath which is a layer of close, woolly under-fur. Within a few hours after birth the baby reindeer is able to walk and follow its mother as she forages.

BEFORE the nomadic Lapps start their removal in winter they have a busy and laborious time—the great sorting of the reindeer takes place then. Reindeer belonging to many different owners are grazing together, and before the removal they must be divided. The deer are fetched down from the hills, and the different owners see from the marks in their ears to whom each reindeer belongs. The owner is able to see from a distance of several yards if the



The men rest after an exhausting march on skis in search of the herd



The Lapps are experts with the lasso, but accidents do happen, as we see here



For stern work such as this a Lapp woman prefers practical dress to the more picturesque traditional costume



Jeremias Kroik is a custodian of unmarked reindeer, which are sold by auction

deer belongs to him, and with a fantastic precision he throws his lasso or rope over the beautiful antlers of the deer.

The work in such a rein-field may last for two or three days, perhaps four, and afterwards the Lapps ski to the next sorting-place, which is often many miles away. Thus the work is continued until all reindeer from the great expanses have been divided and given to their respective owners who then, together with their herds, leave for new pastures.

TO a tourist it is a memory never to be forgotten to have been present at such a sorting of reindeer—it takes the form of a festival of the wilderness. The brilliant white snow is ploughed up by the stately grey deer, while a damp mist is rising from them through the clear frosty air. The grunting of the reindeer and the clicking sound of their hoofs mixed with the loud shouts from the Lapps make the desolate expanses vibrate with life.

Exhausted and perspiring, the men come from the field to the fires where the women keep the coffee-pot boiling all the time. The hand-made wooden ladle every Lapp carries at his belt is filled with steaming hot coffee and therein is placed dried reindeer meat cut out in long strips. After some minutes' rest the Lapp resumes his work "drawing reindeer." A successful

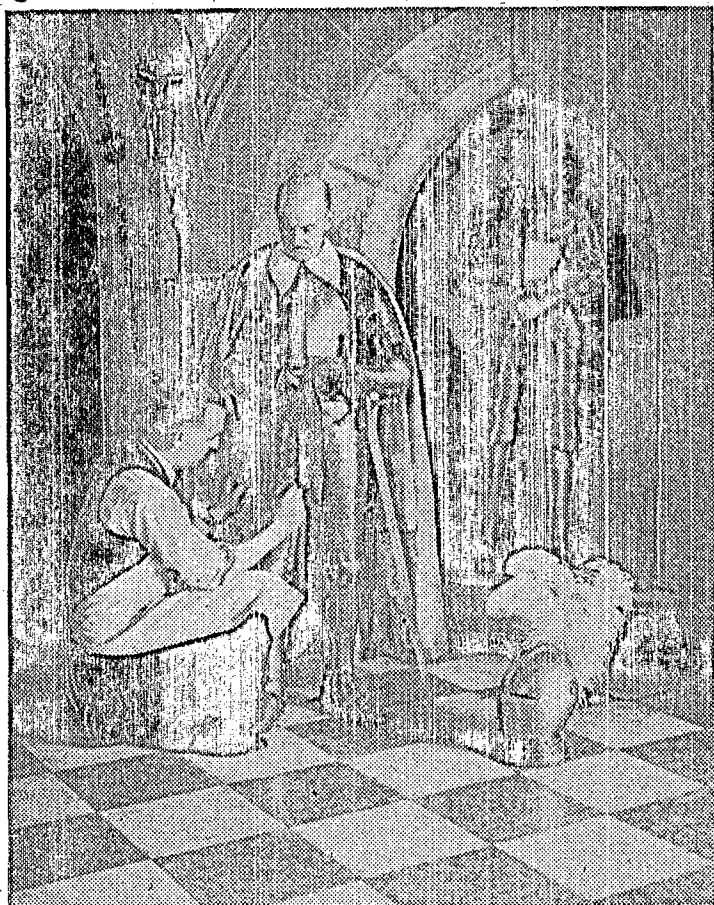
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The reindeer does not take kindly to capture, and the men approach warily as the animal struggles to escape

March 12, 1949

The Children's



In Shining Armour

The historic collection of arms, paintings, and armour of Warwick Castle is being overhauled. Here we see the head guide being helped into a 16th-century suit of armour.

CANADA'S ASBESTOS

NO less than 70 per cent of the world's output of asbestos comes from Canada, whose 72-year-old industry exported a record tonnage in 1948. Russia and South Africa are the only other countries possessing large quantities of this raw material.

According to recent reports, Canada's existing resources are estimated to last for at least another 50 years. Indeed, it is confidently anticipated that additional deposits will shortly be discovered. A particularly rich field is thought to exist below the bed of Black Lake in Quebec, though the exploitation of this deposit would require the draining of a lake 2½ miles long and half a mile wide.

Of the many uses of asbestos fibre, the chief modern applications are in the building and automobile industries, and it is much used for fireproof garments. When combined with other materials asbestos makes a useful anti-rust protective coat which can be sprayed on car bodies.

THREE SYDNEYS

COMMISSIONED WRITER OFFICER A. BURLEY, now a member of Australia's new aircraft carrier, HMAS Sydney, has had the unique experience of serving on three ships of the same name.

He still well remembers joining the first Sydney in 1920. The ship had then just returned from the First World War, proud of achievements which included the historic sinking of the German raider Emden.

During the last war he was a member of the second Sydney. He was in the ship's company during the encounter which led to the sinking of the Italian cruiser Bartolommeo Colleoni.

NEVER before displayed all together, its very own Golden Treasury of Bookbinding is now being exhibited by the Victoria and Albert Museum. It will remain on view until April 18, and every CN reader who admires a handsome book should see it.

All will find beauty in it, but each will find in it what he takes to it himself. If, for example, he is a student of history he will find it alive with the portraits of many an English worthy.

Facing the entrance is the wonderful Lorsch ivory book cover of Charlemagne's period in the ninth century. On it enthroned are carved the Virgin and Child with St John the Baptist and St Zacharias.

The Sion Gospels' binding vies with it in a rather florid way, for it is decorated with enamels and precious stones on a background of gold; tiny rubies sparkle as the eyes of the fabulous beasts upon it; but it dates only from the later century popularly known as "1066 and all that." The manuscripts that it once contained are there no longer. Those of St Matthew and St Mark are in the Vatican, those of St Luke and St John in Hungary. Indeed, this cover itself was lost or stolen and found again more than once.

Those are the high lights of the Exhibition, together with some tattered fragments of much earlier Coptic work. But we find ourselves almost at home among the bindings stamped with the armorial shields of their possessors. For example, there are beauteous volumes that Queen Elizabeth handled, stamped with her device; others from the library of Lord Burghley, her Secretary of State, who may have nodded over some of them; of the bonny Earl of Moray; and of

MR EDEN SAW MT EDEN

NEW Zealand gave a great welcome to Anthony Eden, M.P., for his efforts in years of peace and of war are thoroughly appreciated by thoughtful people throughout the British Commonwealth.

Mr Eden did something that he had always planned to do when he ascended Mount Eden and viewed the city of Auckland spread out in all directions below him; for Auckland, New Zealand's largest city, was named in honour of another distinguished member of the Eden family—Lord Auckland, First Lord of the Admiralty in early Victorian times.

It was New Zealand's first Governor, Captain William Hobson, R.N., who in 1841 chose a site on a deep-water harbour for his capital and called it Auckland out of gratitude to Lord Auckland, who had given him a ship to command; and it was Captain Hobson, too, who gave the name Mount Eden to a small extinct volcanic cone, the highest of several nearby hills.

Mount Eden's summit is less than a thousand feet above the level of the harbour two miles away, but it affords a magnificent view of one of the prettiest cities and busiest seaports in the whole British Commonwealth.

This little incident of Mr Eden's visit to Mount Eden is yet another reminder of the close ties between the Motherland and the great British family of nations.

Beauty on Books

that Earl of Buckingham, who brought Henrietta Maria to a British throne. There are others less courtly but of a higher fame. First among them is the volume of Anson's Voyages which Wolfe was carrying with him when he fell in the hour of victory at Quebec. It has his name and signature within; and on the modest cover is his crest. Next to it is that bearing the arms of Oliver Cromwell, a dour-coloured binding as befitted the Puritan leader, though it encloses nothing sterner than a book of manuscript music, the



The Sion Gospels

bass part of a cornet written for the instruction of his children.

Lastly, on the other side of the screen are Evelyn's Diary and the prayer book of that Doctor Fell, Bishop of Oxford, of whom Dean Swift wrote:

*I do not like thee Doctor Fell
The reason why I cannot tell
But this I know, and know full well,
I do not like thee Doctor Fell.*

—a jingle that rings a bell in the brain of every schoolboy.

The Editor's Table

PACT OF PEACE

NORWAY's resolve to ally herself to the democracies of the Western World is a great event; it has brought a new wave of hope and confidence to all freedom-loving peoples. Norway's courageous patriots showed how much they loved freedom on countless occasions during the bitter years of Nazi occupation. Now they stand united with those other democracies engaged in pledging their common faith in the formation of an Atlantic Pact.

Slowly the great design takes shape. The Western Union countries have already organised themselves into a working partnership. In economic strength, as well as in military preparedness, these countries are planning a great future for Western Europe. Before long it may be that a democratic Western Germany will add its strength to the plan.

Western Union is only part of a greater whole which encompasses the broad Atlantic. The great ocean which divides so many lovers of liberty is now to be made the symbol of their unity. All freedom-loving lands whose shores are washed by Atlantic waters are to pledge their loyalty one to another; they are to swear their allegiance to common ideas and mutual hopes.

THIS is the most hopeful fact of our time. It is the boldest step since the war towards ensuring security, peace, and freedom. In the days of war the bugle note of the Four Freedoms was sounded in the Atlantic Charter by President Roosevelt and Mr Churchill; now, with a similar ring, resounds the call to "pledge hand and heart" for the same great cause.

Lands bordering the Atlantic are the natural heirs of the finest heritage of civilised man. Across this ocean ships have carried the faith of freedom to undiscovered shores. The Old World and the New are closely linked, but never before have they so openly pledged their allegiance; and they do so now knowing full well the dangers.

*No easy hopes or lies
Shall bring us to our goal,
But iron sacrifice
Of body, will, and soul.*

Great countries as well as small are to join in this friendly pact. They desire not only to preserve their precious inheritance but to pass it on to others. Their pledge is one of friendship, not of aggression.

THE Atlantic Pact is to be a pact of peace. It will identify the Atlantic countries for ever with the will to make peace and the will to keep peace. The pact will be entered into openly and freely for all the world to see; and its establishment will once again proclaim faith in Peace on Earth and Good Will to All Men!

A Save the Children Bill

VERY appropriately, Dr Edith Summerskill called the new pure milk Bill a "Save the Children" Bill when it passed its second reading without opposition in Parliament.

The Bill is designed to prevent tuberculosis being spread by the drinking of infected milk. Dr Summerskill pointed out that the number of deaths caused by drinking milk thus infected has been 1500 a year, and many more thousands have been crippled. "So far as the child population is concerned," she went on, "the percentage is ten times greater in the rural areas, where more milk is drunk than in London."

This Bill is indeed a splendid advance, but it was rather discouraging to hear that we cannot expect a complete clean-up of the milk supply for five to ten years. Surely this is a case for rapid action in applying the regulations.

AVERTING WAR IN AMERICA

THE countries of the great American continent, by means of their Pan-American Union, have saved Costa Rica and Nicaragua from war.

Recently, in the Pan-American Union building in Washington, the Ambassadors of the two States signed a Pact of Friendship, and thus ended the dispute which began last December when Costa Rica declared that armed Nicaraguans had invaded her country.

The Ambassadors of both Costa Rica and Nicaragua praised the Council of American States for its splendid work in settling the dispute.

This shows the world how wars can be averted by an international organisation set up within the framework of the United Nations.

JUST AN IDEA

As C. H. Spurgeon said, Home is the grandest of all institutions.

Under the E



PETER PUCK
WANTS TO KNOW
If blowing your
own trumpet is a
sound policy

PHONETIC spelling would destroy the language, says an indignant M.P. And leave him speechless.

PEDESTRIANS who do not cross the road at the right place may be fined. That will make them cross.

OPEN-AIR exhibitions are said to be the finest way to show sculpture. Sculpture exhibitions would be better.

SOME people always like bluebells in their garden. But prefer them when they are out.

A MAN declares he stands to lose huge sums if the purchase tax is removed. He had better sit down.

THINGS SAID

ASSERT this, that if the West and other peace-loving nations get together now, get a complete understanding, co-ordinate their defence efforts, there will be no war for hundreds of years.

Ernest Bevin

A PASSION for independence is at least as strong in man as a passion for equality . . . individual savings, a house, and a stake in the country are good for the man and good for the nation.

D. Eccles, M P

TRUTH is not only stranger than fiction, it is much more interesting.

W. Randolph Hearst

WHEN you wrinkle your forehead and screw up your face you're a candidate for a headache.

Professor R. W. Pickering

The Colliery of the Future

A NEW coal-mine which is gradually taking shape in Scotland will be a model for those of the future. Excepting perhaps a gasworks, it is difficult to think of anything more typical of utilitarian ugliness than a coal-mine—the gaunt winding-gear, the grimy buildings, the surrounding coal dust. But at the new Rothes Colliery, Sheshire, the pithead gear will be inside neat concrete towers, the buildings too will have grace, and there will be lawns and shrubs.

Underground, the contrast with present conditions will be even more striking. Instead of the curving galleries, there will be long, straight tunnels leading from the shafts. Along these men, equipment, and coal will be drawn on rails by diesel locomotives. There will be plenty of light, and air-changing apparatus capable of dealing with 500,000 cubic feet of air a minute.

It will be a grand day when all our collieries are like this.

Editor's Table

AN angler says he spends all his holidays fishing. Every holiday is a bank holiday.

□

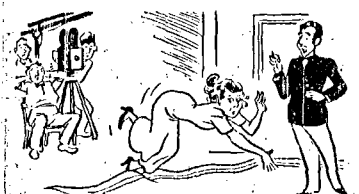
A FOOTBALL referee used the spout of a whistling kettle for a whistle. Did he get into hot water.

□

SOME people always like to know what is going on. And what has come to stop.

□

A GIRL won two matches at table tennis. They might have given her a box.



A GIRL has been cast for a part in a new film. Hopes she won't be brown over.

Mechanised Fairy-Tales

CZECH fairy-tales are to be re-written, for, says a Prague paper: "Our children are more progressive. . . . They don't like to hear stories about kings, princesses, dull-witted Johns, and people of that kind. They much prefer tanks, planes, combines."

The Communist rulers of Czechoslovakia are in for a surprise. Snow-White as "Red-Skirt and the Seven Collective Farmers" is not likely to be popular; nor is Goldilocks, if her name is changed to Marxina, after Karl Marx, and her story becomes "Marxina and the Three Capitalists: Once upon a time there were three horrid capitalist who lived in a house near a tank-factory. The first was a big bloated capitalist, the second a medium-sized one, and third was a tiny wee thin capitalist. One day Marxina, a member of the Young Communists, passed that way . . ."

We need not fear that the enchantment of the old tales will fade in Czechoslovakia. They have delighted countless generations of European children and they will survive the humourless notions of the present rulers.

RED INDIAN PETER PAN

SOME Cree Indians have been in the news recently because of a visit to Montreal to discuss trapping problems with government officials. One of the visitors, from Big Trout Lake, was John Childforever, the bearer of what is surely the nicest name in the world—as well as the hardest to live up to.

RURAL SOUNDS

NOR rural sights alone, but rural sounds, Exhilarate the spirit, and restore The tone of languid Nature. Mighty winds That sweep the skirt of some far-spreading wood Of ancient growth make music not unlike The dash of ocean on his winding shore, And lull the spirit while they fill the mind, Unnumbered branches waving in the blast, And all their leaves fast fluttering all at once.

Nature inanimate displays sweet sounds, But animated Nature sweeter still, To soothe and satisfy the human ear. Ten thousand warblers cheer the day, and one The livelong night; not these alone whose notes Nice-fingered art must emulate in vain, But cawing rooks, and kites that swim sublime In still-repeated circles, screaming loud, The jay, the pie, and even the boding owl That hails the rising moon, have charms for me. Sounds inharmonious in themselves and harsh, Yet heard in scenes where peace for ever reigns, And only there, please highly for their sake. *William Cowper*

Camp Fire Danger

So much destruction has been caused to forests in the Cape Peninsula by mountain fires that the Mayor of Simonstown wants the braai-veils banned.

The "braai-veils" (roast beef) is the traditional South African way of holding a picnic, but, unlike the English picnic, takes place in the cool of the evening. Big fires are lit in the open, and the picnickers then gather round, each with his cup of coffee in one hand and "braai-veils" in the other.

Pleasant as this custom is, there are many careless picnickers—we also have them in this country, alas!—who set fire to the beautiful trees that grow in the Cape Peninsula.

And the Mayor of Simonstown says: "The old diehard who must grill his chop or stir his coffee with a burned stick from the camp fire has had his day in the Peninsula. We may value him as an antique but we cannot allow him to jeopardise the safety of those grand natural beauties with which our Peninsula is endowed. The vacuum flask or the paraffin pressure stove can supply the needs of the camper with safety to the surrounding countryside. Let cooking spots be set aside where picnic meals can be prepared by these means and ban the camp fire."

Sea Dogs



These three sea dogs landed recently at Portsmouth when the cruiser Sussex returned home after two years in the Pacific.

Farewell, Skipper!

A FAMILIAR figure around the coast of romantic Loch Shiel, Captain Angus MacDonald, commander of the steamer Clan-randles, has retired after 52 years' service. He started as a bare-footed laddie when he was fourteen.

For 40 years, until the telephone was installed, the "Clan" was the chief link between the outside world and people living on the Loch shores. Voyaging between Moidart, Ardmurchan, Glenfinnan, Drynan, Aharacle, and other hamlets, Captain MacDonald and his ship were always welcome as it carried mail, livestock, and farm implements, and, of course, the crew carried all the gossip of the great world outside.

When the wool cargo was loaded at Glenhurian as often as not the local tailor would be perched on top of the bales, on his way to make suits for customers along the coast.

GREEN-FINGERED WIZARD

"GREEN-FINGERS" we call a gardener who gets the best out of his growths, but it was the "green-fingered wizard" that men called Luther Burbank, the 100th anniversary of whose birth is being celebrated this week.

Burbank was born on March 7, 1849, of an English father and Scots mother at Lancaster, Massachusetts, in a poor home which, however, always had some books. He found his way to more. Among them was Charles Darwin's *Animals and Plants under Domestication*, which made him vow himself to Botany. But first there was a spell of bondage in a factory.



Luther Burbank

It was while a factory hand that young Burbank discovered a potato of unusual promise, took seed from it, developed and cultivated it, and showed that it was not only prolific but resisted disease, which was then rife in America. He sold his main stock of this potato for £50, and its cultivation added £5,000,000 to the wealth of American agriculture.

Doing the Impossible

His next triumph was to achieve a task thought impossible. He was asked to supply 20,000 seedling prune trees in nine months, just half the time normally required for a prune seedling. But he planted 20,000 almonds and on these, growing quickly, he was able, at the end of six months, to graft prune-buds and, three months later, to deliver the 20,000 seedling prune trees.

Now followed a wide range of experiment and success in producing new varieties of fruit, flowers, and vegetables, by budding, by cross-fertilisation, and by the multiplication of unusual varieties of established species. Realising that it was the genial climate of California that he needed for his task, he went there, taking with him ten of the potatoes that he had developed and made famous. At the outset he had many trials and poverty to face, but, persevering, he succeeded at last in creating a scientifically organised nursery and experimental station at Santa Rosa, where he would have 6000 experiments in hand at one time, with a million plants a year growing for testing. The Carnegie Trust gave him

£2000 a year for ten years to enable him to carry out his experiments, and he became famous as a university lecturer. It was as an inspired practical genius, however, that he won lasting fame—as the man who created the plumcot, which is a stoneless combination of plum and apricot; a giant white thornless blackberry; pipless grapes, and apples without cores; the pomato,

which is a blend of potato and tomato; the loganberry, a hybrid of the blackberry and the raspberry; a scentless onion; improved cereals, flowers, fruits, and vegetables; and, dearest of all to his heart, a thornless cactus. This, he believed, would eventually supplant the normal, useless prickly cactus of the desert, and make the wilderness a vast garden of thornless cactus, food to sustain countless herds of cattle.

California owes much of its wealth to the wizardry of Luther Burbank, who gave it fruit trees that could be timed to escape frost, and vegetables in profusion. The most wizard-like of his feats was perhaps his budding of a tree so that it bore no fewer than 73 distinct varieties of apples at one time. He died in 1926, with all civilised mankind his debtor.

Eating Candy For a Living

FOR nearly 50 years Mr Peter Laurey has been employed as a candy-taster for a big firm of sweet manufacturers in New York City.

His task is to pass every batch of candy produced in the firm's factory before it goes to the shops for sale to the public.

Mr Laurey spends every morning and every afternoon tasting candy. You would think he would grow tired of it, but he never does. He says he likes to have a dish of candy handy when he is reading or listening to the radio at home in the evening.

He is also an expert on the correct flavour of such confections as caramels, toffee, peppermints, and lollipops.



THIS ENGLAND A sphinx that guards Cleopatra's Needle on Victoria Embankment in London

Phormium to the Fore

BECAUSE the world is short of fibres for making twine and sacks special efforts are being made in New Zealand to cultivate the native flax or phormium.

Only about 4000 tons of phormium fibre are now produced each year, but New Zealand could use at least 24,000 tons for making sacks, cordage, matting, fibrous plaster, and possibly paper.

When the ancient Maori people came to New Zealand in their big sailing canoes they found a wonderful plant with long sword-shaped leaves growing everywhere. From its leaves they got long silky fibres for weaving and cordage.

After the coming of the Europeans to New Zealand the Maoris traded bales of fibre for the white man's goods of iron and steel, for they were men of the Stone Age.

Once there was a flourishing flax industry in New Zealand, with many steam-driven mills producing silky fibre which was shipped to London. But low prices after the 1914-18 war caused most of these flax mills to close.

Also, much of the flat land that grew flax naturally was ploughed up and transformed into pasture.

In recent years, however, plantations of 100 acres of flax have been established in two areas of New Zealand, and the Government have offered to buy all the fibre that can be produced at good prices.

Perhaps much more land now lying idle will be planted with this typical New Zealand plant so that the industries of the Dominion's growing towns will not have to depend on fibres brought in ships from distant lands.

BOY WEIGHT-LIFTER

FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD PHIL CAIRA, of Kirkcaldy, Fifeshire, has just created three Scottish weight-lifting records.

Using the Olympic press-grip he lifted 220½ lbs, and so gained for himself the light heavyweight, the 13 stone, and the heavyweight records. Phil still attends school and started serious weight-lifting only a year ago.

Steps to Sporting Fame



Some excel at one sport, some at another. Trevor Bailey, born at Westcliff in 1923, is a leading exponent in nearly all.



At Dulwich College he was awarded his cricket colours at 14, played for the Rugby XV and the Squash team, and won a Victor Ludorum (games' victor) for athletics.



As a schoolboy, playing for a Middlesex and Essex XI v a Kent and Surrey XI, he took 3 wickets with his first 8 balls. For Essex v Sussex in 1947 he hit 205.



Trevor went up to Cambridge after war service as a Commando officer, gained cricket and soccer blues, and now plays for Leytonstone, famous Amateur Cup fighters.

Reshaping the Suez

THE Suez Canal Company (in which Britain has an important interest) are planning to improve upon the waterway opened by that great Frenchman Ferdinand de Lesseps in 1869.

Under the rule that two vessels cannot pass one another while in motion, much time is wasted because one ship has to tie up while the other passes.

At present vessels navigate the canal in convoys, one anchoring in one of the lakes astride the canal while the other proceeds on its way. Suitable lakes, however, are only found near the Red Sea end, so that only one convoy at a time can be in the 50-mile stretch between the Mediterranean and Lake Timsa.

To make matters worse, the Egyptian Government have ordered the closing of this section between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. in order that the rail ferry at Kantara may be used.

To ease this difficulty the Company now propose to construct a by-pass section midway along the canal, thus permitting two or three more convoys to pass through each day. It is estimated that the necessary work will take three years, involving the removal of 18 million cubic yards of earth and the complete reconstruction of a section of the railway line which skirts the canal.

Deeper Water

In order that modern tankers of 35-foot draught may use the canal it is also proposed to deepen it along its entire length by an additional 20 inches. This operation, which will require the removal of 8 million cubic yards of under-water soil and 800,000 cubic yards of rock, is expected to take five years.

Plans are also in train for the deepening of Lake Timsa, where large tankers will be able to anchor while another convoy passes.

Finally, Port Said is to be enlarged so that 18 large vessels may wait their turn to enter the canal instead of nine, as now.

From its vantage point at the Mediterranean end of the canal the great statue of de Lesseps will look down upon the gradual unfolding of these plans.

UNITED STATES OF CENTRAL AFRICA?

WITHIN sight of Livingstone's statue at Victoria Falls, and within earshot of the thunder of the great falls themselves representatives from Southern and Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland have met to consider the future of their vast domains which extend from the borders of the Transvaal to the Great Lakes.

This is the land over which two of Africa's greatest pioneers, Rhodes and Livingstone, roamed, and through which the Zambesi, first explored by Livingstone, flows. Both these men had a vision of what those rich territories might one day be—Livingstone as a region for "Christianity and Commerce," and Rhodes as a farming and mining country for the white man to organise and govern.

Southern Rhodesia is three times the size of England, with eighty thousand Europeans living in it and nearly two million Africans. Northern Rhodesia is six times the size of England and has almost the same number of Africans, but fewer Europeans—only 21,000. Nyasaland is about the same size as England with about two million Africans and only two thousand Europeans.

In these figures are summed up the problems which Sir Godfrey Huggins and Sir Miles Thomas and their colleagues have to face in trying to create a great dominion or a "United States" in

Central Africa. Size, small European populations, and a predominantly African community are formidable obstacles to any easy transformation from a primitive community to the modern state.

One plan suggested at the Victoria Falls Conference was a Federal Parliament along the lines of the American Constitution. But there is a long way to go before that ideal can be a practical working proposition. To have a parliament of that kind means first of all a satisfactory solution of the racial problems which are uppermost in the Rhodesias and Nyasaland. Sir Godfrey Huggins wants all the rates of the three territories to go forward as friends and partners and so make the ideal of an African United States possible in the future.

Scattered over the vast area the African Bantu people still live in the most primitive conditions. This is the land of the

OPERATION CAT

HUNDREDS of cats have been landed by the Chileans on the small Patagonian island of Guarelo. They are to have the congenial task of clearing the place of rats which have almost overrun it. The Chileans wish to establish new industries on the island and the cat campaign is a necessary preliminary.

ROB ROY—Sir Walter Scott's Romantic Story of an Outlaw, Told in Pictures



Rob Roy and Mr Jarvie argued hotly, and Frank gathered that Jarvie was Rob's cousin and so was unwilling to arrest him. Also, Rob owed him money which he promised to pay if he would come to the Highlands. Rob said too, that he would try to help Frank recover his father's money from Rashleigh. In the end they left the Tolbooth and Rob went his way. Frank and Mr Owen went to Mr Jarvie's house.



Mr Jarvie, the Glasgow merchant, was a business friend of Frank's father, and wanted to save the London merchant from ruin. While Jarvie and Owen talked business, Frank went for a walk in the College grounds, trying to puzzle out the mystery of how Rob Roy was mixed up in Rashleigh's intrigues with the Jacobite rebels. Then, to his amazement, he saw Rashleigh himself coming towards him!



Frank demanded the return of his father's money. Rashleigh was calmly insolent. But, as Frank insisted, the other's dark eyes flashed. He challenged Frank and drew his sword so quickly that Frank had to leap back while drawing his own. Reflecting that they were cousins, Frank decided only to disarm his opponent, but Rashleigh fought with such fury that Frank had to fight for his life.



Frank's foot slipped and before he could recover, Rashleigh thrust at him. The sword ran through Frank's waistcoat but only grazed his ribs. Frank seized the hilt of Rashleigh's sword and shortened his own to make a thrust. Then a man threw himself between them and pushed them apart. "What!" he cried. "The sons of fathers who are brothers shedding each other's blood!" It was Rob Roy!

What Can Rob Roy Do Now to Help Frank? See Next Week's Instalment

Harnessing the Elements

TINY amounts of obscure elements are now playing big roles in modern science. Polonium, for instance, one of the rarest elements of all, is now being used to prevent interference to radio and television sets by neighbouring electrical apparatus; if an extremely small amount of polonium, which is radio-active, is placed near apparatus troubled with static electricity, its radiation charges the surrounding air and allows the static electricity to leak off as fast as it is formed.

Nickel strips electroplated with this rare element are now being fastened to electrical machinery, thus cutting out interference.

Repairing by Tantalum

Another rare metal which chemists have harnessed is tantalum, which looks so much like platinum that it is now being used in the making of watches and jewellery. Its price is one-fifteenth that of platinum. Analytical weights for standards of high accuracy used to be made of platinum, but in France and the USA tantalum has now been officially accepted for this purpose. Serious skull injuries are also "patched" with tantalum plates, and small bones are repaired with tantalum wire and tubing, for it has been found that this rare metal is completely non-irritant to living tissues.

Indium is a rare metal that chemically is related to aluminium. It also resembles lead to a certain degree in that it is soft and easily worked but, unlike lead, is not affected by water or air and resists chemical corrosion well. Today it is being electroplated on machine-bearing parts to give a surface which resists the type of corrosion caused by acid compounds present in lubricating oil. This results in a much superior, long-

wearing type of bearing. In Britain's great industrial drive indium is playing a prominent role.

Borax, or sodium tetraborate, was the first chemical known to have been used in industry; 6000 years ago prospectors gathered it in the deserts of central Asia and brought it on yaks and camels to the civilised towns of Babylonia. There the royal goldsmiths used it to purify and weld the metal of beautiful crowns, head-dresses and necklaces, some of which have been found in the ruins of Ur and other ancient cities.

Today, however, the boron in borax is chiefly used for helping to make the smooth white enamel of modern bathtubs and other plumbing fixtures, and to make glassware which will stand heat well enough to be used for cook-

ing utensils. There are not many chemicals that will attack solid boron, and scientists are now trying to find a way of laying down a coating of it on a piece of iron, and thus protecting it from chemical corrosion and make its surface extremely hard. There is a big demand for very hard materials in industry and most of the hard alloys in use today are expensive.

Fluorine, perhaps the most bad-tempered element of all, used to be left strictly alone because of its habit of corroding practically everything. Now it has been discovered that, combined with carbon through a special process, fluorine becomes well-behaved and obligingly produces a long list of oils, plastics, and rubbers that resist heat and corrosion. These are called fluorocarbons.

FROGMEN AND DUCKERS

A 20-YEAR-OLD girl has just had the greatest thrill in her life. She has waded in ice-cold waters hundreds of feet under the earth. This young lady is a member of the Cave Diving Group, which has long explored the deep underground streams in the Peak district, but achieved its greatest success the other day when two parties converged in the Peak cavern at Castleton, 500 feet below ground.

Four divers, equipped with frogmen's suits, field telephones and powerful electric lamps, went into Buxton Water, a passage 3000 feet long. Another party, called "duckers" entered Speedwell Water, an ice-cold stream parallel with Buxton Water. Three hours later the two parties met in the cavern, 60 yards long, 30 feet wide, and 100 feet high.

Many new passages were discovered and noted for further exploration, as well as a Torricellian, where the water rises six feet above the stream level into a siphon made by an air pocket. The expedition was led by Dr Robert E. Davies, a Sheffield University lecturer.

The Mayflower's Home Town

THREE American descendants of William Brewster, the ruling elder of the Pilgrim Fathers, have sent £750 for the fund for rebuilding the spire of the church at Scrooby in Nottinghamshire, where William Brewster's house was a meeting-place of the Brownists, or Separatists, who sailed in the Mayflower to become the Fathers of New England.

A pew called Brewster's Pew is still in the old church today, and a tablet on a house marks the site where, it is said, Brewster lived from 1588 to 1608.

SAVING THE LEOPARD

KENYA's game department is very worried because—with big prices offered for leopard skins—too many leopards are being killed.

The extinction of the leopard would be a great loss to the colony in spite of the damage it sometimes does to livestock. More than any other animal it keeps in check the number of monkeys, baboons, and wild pigs. If these animals were allowed to breed without restriction they would be a much greater menace to farming than is the leopard.



Out for a Stroll

This walking clown was one of the attractions at Birmingham Toy Fair.

ONLY THREE WEEKS MORE

in the Great £500

C N HANDWRITING TEST

HAVE you completed your entry for the C N's great Handwriting Competition? If not, and you have been entered by your school, remember that you have barely three weeks left in which to try for one of the 1018 prizes offered, and all of which must be won.

As we have explained in previous announcements, the Test has a special interest in that the words to be written form a Greeting from British schoolchildren to the infant Prince Charles of Edinburgh. They appear, together with the rules and directions, on the printed Entry Form supplied to schools.

Although boys and girls all over the country are entering for this competition, each has an equal opportunity, as the Test has THREE AGE CLASSES—with prizes for both schools and pupils in each. So, providing you are under 17 and a full-time pupil at a school in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, or the Channel Islands, you have the same good opportunity as every other boy and girl of gaining a place in the following great £500 prize list:

School Prizes (in each class)	First £25	Second £10	Third £5
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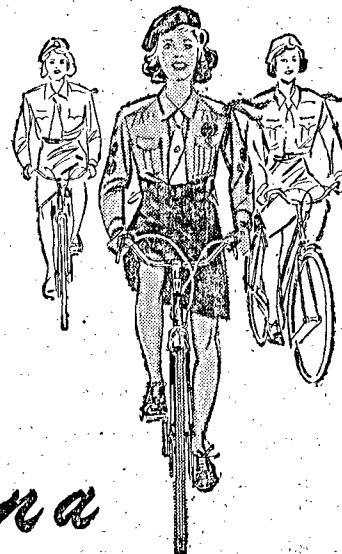
ALSO 1000 SPECIAL CONSOLATION PRIZES

The last date for applications for Entry Forms was February 28. Entrants are encouraged to practise writing the test passage on plain paper before completing the final effort. As to style, script, joined script, or cursive may be used, so that you have the advantage of using the style taught in your own school. If you are taking part with your school, remember that your completed entry is to be signed by your Teacher, and must have affixed to it one of the Tokens marked "£500 Writing Test," as given at the foot of the back page of this number—and if any of your friends are entering and have difficulty in getting their tokens, tell them that everybody can

have CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER now. If the newsagent has sold all his copies, as is happening in many parts, he can get more copies if he is asked. But such orders, whether for one copy, or for a regular supply, must be placed at once! Each pupil's entry will be judged as an individual effort, but must be sent in as part of his or her school's total entry. There are just over three more weeks before the last date for accepting entries from schools—closing date of the competition is Thursday, March 31.

(NB—It is regretted that the competition cannot be extended to schools outside Great Britain, Northern Ireland, and the Channel Islands.)

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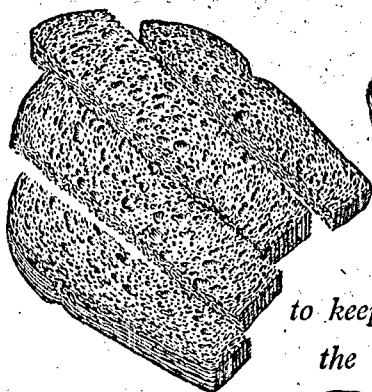
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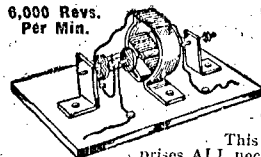
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ROUGH GOING In the Himalayas

MR LOY HENDERSON, the American Ambassador in Delhi, can have made few more curious journeys in the course of his duties than the one he made recently to Katmandu to present his credentials to the King of Nepal.

Nepal, an independent kingdom set in lonely isolation among the Himalayas, between India and Tibet, is no easy place to approach, as Mr Henderson discovered. First he set out on the light narrow-gauge railway and then transferred to a car. When the road gave out Mr Henderson was supplied with a horse until the going became too steep, when he was carried by coolies in a sedan chair. Lastly, even the sedan chair was found impossible and the stout-hearted ambassador completed the journey on foot. In all, it took 89 coolies to carry the baggage over certain parts of the route, but sometimes their work was lightened by making use of aerial ropeways which swung the baggage easily up and down the mountain sides.

Remote though it is, Katmandu is a thriving modern town with both electricity and telephones. Nepal itself is a very progressive little country and has started a five-year plan to increase its industries, develop its electric power, and even air services.

REINDEER ROUND-UP

Continued from page 5

throw, the rope is tightened and the deer resists, snorting and with all four legs bracing against the field. The Lapp's little but tough and brawny body is shrinking still more from exhaustion while he is drawing in the rope and directing the deer into the right fold. A short but intensive struggle and the Lapp is the victor. A deer is running past, the mark in the ear is the right one, a new throw, and thus the work is continued hour after hour—even day after day. What a tourist considers a festival and a great experience is to the Lapp a laborious everyday task which gives him and his family their living.

BUT is it not only in the Old World that the reindeer is an invaluable source of food. For many generations the Eskimos of Northern Canada have depended almost entirely on reindeer, or caribou, as they call them, not only for food but for the skin, which is used to make tents, boats, and garments. There were vast herds of the animals at one time, and twice a year they migrated in immense numbers.

It was during these migrations that the Eskimos killed the animals they required. But when firearms came into their possession they slaughtered the reindeer in such numbers that the animals changed their migration routes and the Eskimos were faced with starvation.

The Canadian Government then imported 3000 tame reindeer from Alaska. Providentially, after five years of terrible hardship, the reindeer reached their destination as the Eskimos were beginning to die of malnutrition. Within a few weeks of their arrival, 800 calves were born to the herd.

The Eskimo was shown how to manage the herds as domestic animals, and when he became sufficiently skilled he was given a small herd for his own use.

Radio Aid FOR MOTORISTS AND THE PRESS

THE Automobile Association is to use radio telephony to direct its breakdown vans to stranded members. The service in the first place will be restricted to the London area at night. It will enable breakdown vans to be kept in constant communication and directed from one breakdown to another without delay.

THE Belfast Telegraph has become the first newspaper in Ireland to make use of a radio car, enabling reporters to talk direct with the head office whenever they are out on a "story."

The car is an ordinary saloon car, with the wireless apparatus, which is very small, installed beneath the dashboard. This apparatus, which was designed by the General Electric Company, is identical at the car end and at the receiving end. The only difference is in the aerials employed, the car aerial being necessarily a low one while that of the office is installed on the highest point of the roof. The system has a range of about 50 miles under good conditions; two-way conversations can be carried out, but only one end can talk at a time, and it is necessary to say "Over" and turn a switch.

TRUE TILL DEATH

Staunch Friend of Charles the First

DURING the Civil War which divided our people into two opposing factions 300 years ago, there was no more self-sacrificing supporter of Charles the First than Arthur Capell, Baron Capell of Hadham, Hertfordshire, as the king made him.

Ten years younger than Charles, and at first opposed to his policy, Capell took up arms when swords began to flash, and became a foremost Royalist. He raised men at his own charge, and stimulated recruiting far and near, and the giving of funds for king and cause. When danger began to threaten he conducted Queen Henrietta Maria to Paris.

Valued for his wisdom as well as his courage, Capell, unrelenting in his warlike efforts, was the main agent in bringing on the second half of the civil strife, shortly after he had helped Charles to escape to the Isle of Wight.

Escape and Recapture

Having stoutly shared the privations and terrors of the 76 days' siege of Colchester, he was there taken prisoner and sent to the Tower. He escaped, thanks to a rope that a friendly hand secretly bore to him, and hid for some days in the Temple. Then a boatman who rowed him over the river to what seemed the better safety of Lambeth betrayed him, and he was recaptured. On March 9, exactly three centuries ago, he was executed in Old Palace Yard, behaving on the scaffold, wrote Bulstrode, "much after the manner of a stout Roman."

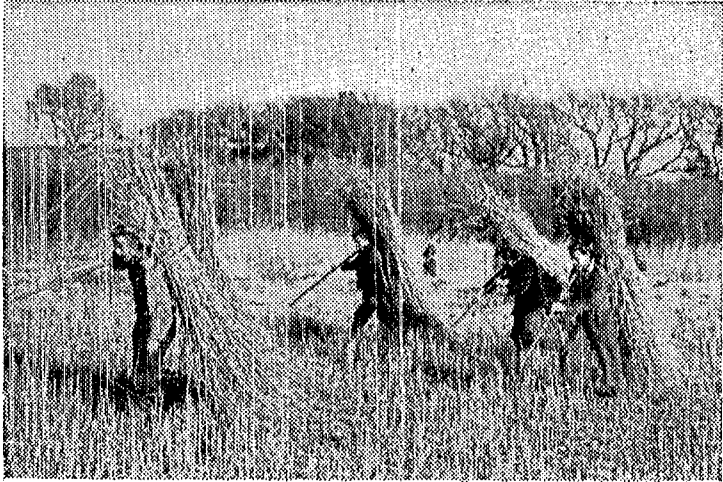
Half a century later there was found at Hadham Hall, his old home, a silver casket in which lay the heart, embalmed, of faithful Lord Capell, whose dying wish was that it should be interred with Charles, who had preceded him to the grave.

Capell was denied his fondest wish, but the sanctity of his life and his record of flawless constancy to his royal master secured him lasting regard and renown.



Owl in a Schoolroom

Brownie, a tame owl, enables the children at a Cheltenham school to get a close-up of their subject during a natural history lesson



Harvest of Reeds

Reeds used for thatching are being cut at Abbotsbury Swannery, Dorset. Ten thousand bundles may be obtained in a good season.

Freedom of the Seas

WE all realise today that its industries and commerce play as important a part in a nation's history as the battles and sieges. This is certainly true of the Act repealing our Navigation Laws on March 12, 1849, just a hundred years ago.

The removal of this long series of laws from the Statute Book marked the end of the old Mercantile System, with its carefully regulated commerce, and ushered in the Free Trade era under which Britain grew rich during the nineteenth century.

The adherents of the Mercantile System believed that a wealthy country was one which imported more treasure than it exported. In addition, they considered it an unnecessary expense to pay foreign nations for the use of their ships.

Accordingly, as long ago as 1381, the year in which Wat Tyler met Richard II at Smithfield, the first of many Navigation Acts was passed. This laid it down that no merchant should either export or import goods except in English vessels.

It proved difficult to enforce, for England's growing trade was too large for the available English ships. By Elizabethan times the great Lord Burghley succeeded at any rate in reserving the coastal trade for English ships. Let it not be forgotten that Francis Drake learned his business in this trade.

Ubiquitous Dutch

Under Cromwell the Navigation Acts took a sterner turn, for the Dutch bade fair to annex the trade of the world. Writes a modern historian: "They (the Dutch) took to the sea and became the carriers of the growing world's trade. Dutch boats scurried everywhere—carrying everybody's goods everywhere."

By the Act of 1651, all goods from Africa, Asia, or America could only be imported into England, Ireland, or the Colonies in English ships. Goods from Europe had to be imported in English ships or vessels of the country of origin.

A few years later this Act was repeated with the addition that the ships designated as English must be "... built of and belonging to any of the said lands, islands, plantations or territories, as the right owners thereof, and whereof the master and three-fourths of the mariners at least are English."

In this form, with only minor

alterations, the Navigation Laws stood until they were swept away by the rising tide of Free Trade.

Known as *laissez-faire* (Let well alone) the new philosophy held that if all men and nations were left to work out their destiny unhampered by the State the greatest good of the greatest number would result. To this end the Navigation Acts followed the Corn Laws into oblivion.

There only remained certain restrictions on the coastwise trade, and they were removed a few years later.

Today, a century after the event, while the flags of many nations may be seen in British ports, British merchantmen are still supreme upon the Seven Seas. And in Britain's shipyards there are today more vessels under construction than in all the rest of the world.

BEDTIME CORNER

Two Naughty Rooks

THERE was a tremendous noise going on early one March morning in the rookery elms by the river bridge. Already last year's nests had been inspected, and those worth repairing were being repaired with sticks and mud by their owners; while other

rooks were building new nests among the nearby branches. But this morning most of them had knocked off work to hold a meeting.

"I'm quite certain," said the Oldest Rook, "that there is a pair of thieves among us."

"Caw! Caw!" answered the others. "So are we!"

"Many a time," said the Oldest Rook, "I have broken off a strong little branch from a nearby tree and brought it home and woven it into my nest. And when I have come back again with another stick I have found the first one missing."

"Caw! Caw! So have we!" answered the others.

"And at this rate," he said, "we'll never get our nests finished in time."

SHEEP FLOWN TO NEW GUINEA

A SPLENDID effort in colonial welfare has been made in the British section of New Guinea.

The natives who live high up in the valley of the Middle Wahgi are fine, intelligent people; but they lack proper clothing, and feel the cold night air of the surrounding mountains.

To meet this difficulty a flock of 400 sheep has been flown from a farm on the borders of New South Wales and Victoria to an experimental farm at Nundugl, in the heart of the Middle Wahgi valley. The donor was Mr F. J. Hallstrom, a well-known Australian business man.

Before the arrival of the flock the ground had been well prepared by the natives, who cleared away the scrub and planted kikuyu grass on which the sheep would graze and thrive.

Now the natives are being taught to be shepherds, to shear the wool, spin it, and weave it into textiles which will serve as clothing and blankets for their use. The mutton will be a useful addition to their diet.

Repeating History

When the tribesmen have thoroughly learned the fine arts of sheep farming, the flock will pass to their ownership.

History is here repeating itself. Over 150 years ago Captain John McArthur, one of Captain Phillip's officers, introduced sheep into Australia by procuring some merino sheep from the stud of King George III. Thus began Australia's valuable sheep-rearing industry.

Now, through the good offices of one of her sons, Australia has introduced that industry into this island of great promise under her mandate.

"Then let us choose someone to stay and watch," said the Next-Oldest-Rook.

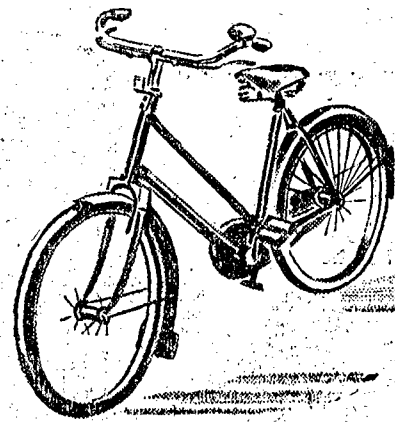
And this they did. And after a while the watcher spotted the lazy pair who were stealing the sticks from the other nests, instead of picking their own.

"What shall we do to them?" the Oldest Rook asked, when he had called another meeting after dinner.

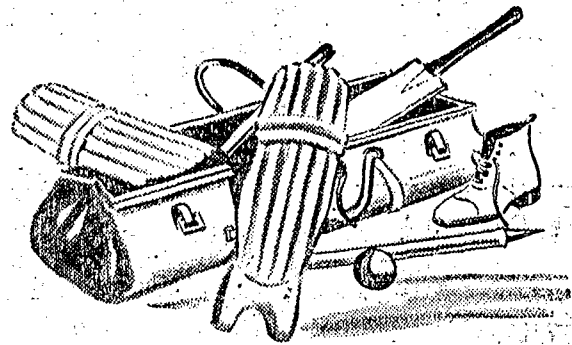
"Drive them out of the Rookery, and make them live alone in disgrace for all to see!" cawed the others.

So when the two came flying back from finding their dinner, all the other rooks flew at them and cawed, and snapped their beaks, and drove them off. And when they tried to come back they did it again, until at last the naughty pair realised that it was no good.

So away they flew to a single elm standing on the other side of the river, and there they had to find their own sticks; and every bird in the air knew why they had to live alone.



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THE BRAN TUB

LONG ENOUGH

The fisherman had outstayed his welcome.

"Tell me," said the host at last. "How long did you say that fish was you caught the other day?"

"Oh," said the guest, holding his hands wide apart—"So long!"

"Must you really be going?" returned the host. "Oh well, so long!"

ENIGMA

I show the way about the world. Without me men could hardly travel.

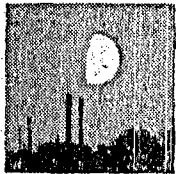
Reverse me, and a girl's name find.

Can you this mystery unravel?

Answer next week

Other Worlds

In the evening Saturn is in the south-east and Uranus in the south. In the morning Jupiter is in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon at 8 o'clock on Tuesday evening, March 8.



PAINFUL SUBJECT

A SCHOOLMASTER struggled in vain, To render his meaning quite plain.

At last with a sigh, And a glint in his eye, He said "The next lesson's the cane."

Jumbled Dogs

If the letters of the following phrases are properly rearranged, they will spell the names of six kinds of dogs.

DRY ENOUGH PIN SALE
SEEK PINE TAN A SAIL
BOAR LARD COST TIE

Answer next week

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

A Door Made to Measure. A clear whistle echoed through the Big-woods. Don saw a flash of chestnut as a bird darted through the trees. Alighting on a great oak, the bird began to search for insects, creeping rapidly over the tree's rough bark, walking both up and down the trunk.

"Its back was a slate-blue colour, and it was about five and a half inches long," Don told Farmer Gray.

"A nuthatch," said the farmer. "These pretty little birds nest in a hole in a tree. If the hole is too big for the nuthatch's liking, he plasters it with clay until it is just the size to admit him."

MORE STAMP BARGAINS

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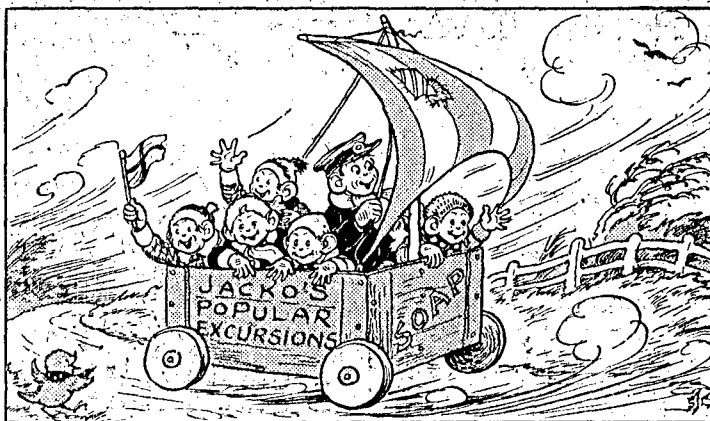
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TEST

Jacko's Conducted Tour



JACKO had decided that the blustering March wind could well be harnessed to provide him with some amusement, so he had built himself a fine road yacht. "Roll up, roll up!" he chortled. "An exhilarating peregrination midst rural environments." (He had heard a conductor of seaside tours calling that, and, although he was not sure of the meaning, he felt sure that it was appropriate.) Baby Jacko's friends may not have known what he meant, either, but they piled aboard, and with Jacko at the helm and the strong wind filling the sail they had a fine time.

Doing the Impossible

CAN you throw a halfpenny into the air so that it will not come down any more?

This sounds an impossible task but actually you cannot fail to do it, and it will not come down any more—than a halfpenny.

The Dollar Mark

WE are all familiar with the dollar sign \$ but there are many views as to its origin.

Some believe it is a corruption of the letters U.S., which were prefixed to Federal currency. In the hurry of writing the U and the S became intertwined.

Some think it a contraction of the Spanish word pesos; others from the Spanish fuertes, meaning hard, to distinguish between silver and paper money.

Another belief is that it is a modification of the figure 8, and denotes a piece of eight reals, or, as the dollar was once called, a piece of eight.

STRANGE SPELLING

JACK: Can you spell with only four letters a word of nine letters meaning muddler?

John: I give up.

Jack: The word is blunderer, written like this ER BL.

John: Not bad; but can you spell the verb to appropriate with one letter?

Jack: I should say not.

John: Quite simple—just write an X (annex).

COUNTRYSIDE FLOWERS

The Wood Anemone

DURING March the delicate pink-tipped flowers of the fragile Wood Anemone make their welcome appearance. These

beautiful little flowers, on their slender stems, are woodland barometers, opening only when the weather is fine. Another name for the Wood Anemone is Windflower.

Sensitive to the slightest breeze, Wood Anemones always turn their backs to the wind, and can weather the fiercest gale.

Nature Puzzle

My first is in Toad and also in Frog.

My second's in Cat, but not in Dog.

My third is in Rabbit, but not in Hare,

My fourth is in Den, but not in Lair.

My fifth's in Aquarium, never in Tank,

My whole makes its home in a river bank.

Answer next week

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Behaving. Clear (lear, ear).

Charade. Mendips

An Odd Sum. 5s (crown), £1 (sovereign), 6d (tanner), 1d (two far things), 11d (penny-farthings), £1 1s (guinea), 1s (bob), £1 (quid).

The Children's Hour

BBC Programmes from Wednesday, March 9, to Tuesday, March 15.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 The Wreck of the Toytown Bell (1). 5.30 A Diesel Rallcar Trip. North, 5.0 Wandering with Nomad; Film News. Welsh, 5.0 The Missing Music—a story; Serenade for Children; More Heroes.

THURSDAY, 5.0 Children's songs; Faraway Island (4); I've Met Children Everywhere (4). Welsh, Programme in Welsh. 5.30 Elements Behave—a story; New Worlds for Old (3). West, 5.0 A story. 5.15 Samuel Pilsnoll—a story; Rooks, Wild and Tame.

FRIDAY, 5.0 Glasgow Slum to Fleet Street (5). 5.15 High Barbary (5). N. Ireland, 5.0 Adventures in France (5); Heir to Dun-an-Oir (5); Boys' Brigade Bugle Band. North, 5.0 The Exciting Journey (2).

SATURDAY, 5.0 The Scarecrows of Scatterbrook (4). 5.40 Adventures in Tunisia. North, 5.0 Stuff and Nonsense; Tuesday's Children's Concert—a talk.

SUNDAY, 5.0 Three Mice for the Abbot; A Cardiff choir. North, 5.0 A story; Subject and Object.

MONDAY, 5.0 The Adventures of Henry VIII—a story; Songs. 5.40 Film Review. North, 5.0 Young Artists; Current Affairs. Scottish, 5.0 Animal Antics; Songs; Wullie (4); When I was Your Age (3).

TUESDAY, 5.0 The Snowman and the Scarecrow. 5.10 Young Artists. 5.40 Current Affairs. Midland, 5.0 A Bobby Brewster story; A school choir. North, 5.0 Concert. Scottish, 5.0 An Edinburgh choir; Nature Scrapbook. Welsh, 5.0 Programme in Welsh.

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Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 Total, without deductions. 5 A breach. 8 Mother's sister. 9 A green stone. 10 A knife-sharpener. 12 Human being. 13 The fall. 16 To grant entry. 17 A solicitor. 20 Associate of the Royal Academy (abbrev.) 21 Pertaining to a navy. 24 A father. 25 Valley. 26 A leg guard. 27 A pier.

Reading Down. 1 Used for lighting and heating. 2 Wife of Boaz. 3 Single. 4 Firmly fixed. 5 The whole range of anything. 6 The first man. 7 Bronze coin. 11 The cavity of a tube. 14 Long speech of censure. 15 To fasten. 16 A payment. 18 A tune. 19 Grain prepared for brewing. 22 A large tub. 23 A meadow.

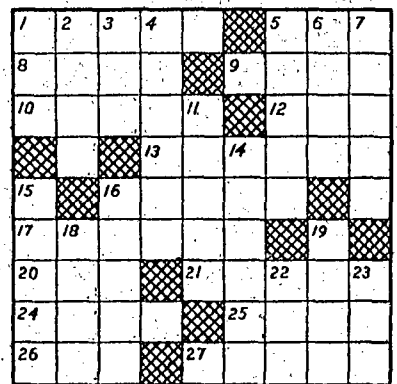
Answer next week

OLD FRIENDS

HE was asked whether he knew John Hook.

"Why, yes," he cried. "Hook and Eye are old associates."

The Children's Newspaper, March 12, 1949



Word to the Waiter

SMART waiter, be contented with thy state,

The world is his who best knows how to wait.



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